



# PRIME MINISTER

FOR MEDIA

WEDNESDAY 23 MAY 1980

## NEW DEFENCE LONG SERVICE AWARDS

Her Majesty The Queen has been pleased to approve recommendations for the establishment of three new long service awards for members of the Australian Defence Force.

The new awards, which have been recommended by the Government, will form part of the Australian system of honours and awards.

The awards will recognise the distinctive services of Defence personnel to Australia.

The proposed three new awards will each be made after 15 years' efficient service and on the recommendation of the Chief of Defence Force Staff, or delegated officer. Service need not be continuous. The awards will be:

- (i) Defence Force Service Medal for Regular officers and other ranks;
- (ii) Reserve Force Decoration for Reserve officers;
- (iii) Reserve Force Medal for Reserve other ranks.

The regulations would provide for the awards to be available to any member of the Australian Defence Force, Regular or Reserve, serving on or after 14 February 1975. Regard would be had to aggregate service within the Defence Force and eligibility for the new awards would not be affected by any awards already made in respect of the member's service. The Reserve Force Decoration for Reserve officers will carry an entitlement to the use of post-nominals.

Awards will be made in the name of the Sovereign and with her approval.

The formal institution of the awards will be announced when The Queen approves the issue of the Letters Patent and the regulations governing the administration of the awards.